

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT EXPERIENCES**

**DR. LESLIE B. LEWIS  
2306 FAYETTEVILLE AVENUE  
HENDERSON, NV 89052  
(702) 896-2291**

### **Education**

- B.A., State University of NY at Buffalo, Chemistry
- 30 Graduate Credits, Brooklyn College (NY), Science Education
- M.S. Ed., Pace University (NY), Educational Administration
- Certificate of Advanced Studies, State University of NY at Albany, Educational Administration
- Ed.D., State University of NY at Albany, Educational Administration

### **Professional Experience**

- Middle School Science Teacher, IS 117, Brooklyn, NY
- Teacher Trainer, Community District #13, Brooklyn, NY
- Acting Assistant Principal and Chairman of Science, IS 117, Brooklyn, NY
- Graduate Fellow, Capital Area School Development Association, Albany, NY
- Assistant Principal, Cheektowaga Central Jr-Sr High School, Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY
- Principal, Cheektowaga Central Jr-Sr High School, Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY
- Superintendent of Schools, Cheektowaga Central School District, Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY

### **School Improvement Experiences**

As an educational leader during most of my career, I have constantly strived to raise educational standards and expectations in all subject areas while maintaining a focus on the “whole child” – that is, allowing for individual needs and differences. The following is an abbreviated list of some of these activities.

- Implemented mastery learning program using outcome based objectives (mastery, not mystery)
- Encouraged the district-wide adoption of Dr. William Glasser's *Control Theory* as the psychological basis of school discipline. This initiative included both teacher and community training
- Required all high school students to write the NYS Comprehensive English Regents Examination (since replaced by the NYS English-Language Arts (ELA) Regents Examination) several years before the state mandate
- Raised the graduation requirements to include 4 years of ELA, Social Studies, and 3 years of Mathematics and Laboratory Sciences before the state mandated such changes
- Implemented a "shared decision based" model (SDM) in all schools and at the district level involving teachers, support staff, administrators, and parents. While the primary focus is student learning, other more mundane issues are also discussed (issues I have dubbed "toilet paper" problems). The educational focus was eventually transferred to the CDEP program (see below) while the local SDM teams were charged to help implement the CDEP outcomes.
- Led the development of "Sublearnings" a detailed grade-by-grade and subject-by-subject set of expectations that was published and provided to all teachers and all parents. This project was the result of many different teacher-led committees review and revising existing curricula, and codifying them into a meaningful document that became the backbone of the school district's program. This model was eventually adopted state-wide by the NYS Board of Regents. Samples of the district's sublearnings may be found at:  
<http://www.cheektowagacentral.org/information.cfm?subpage=30>
- Implemented New York State's Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP), a three-year process that reviews student data and identifies gaps between expectations and performance. Root causes are determined and then action plans are developed to address them. The plan's success in meeting its goals are reviewed annually and individual items may be modified or adjusted as needed. A completely new plan is developed every three years.

The plan is developed by a district-wide committee consisting of teachers selected by the Teachers' Association, building-level administrators selected by the Administrators' Association, district administrators selected by the Superintendent, two members of the Board of Education, at least two parents, community members and secondary students.

An evaluation of the plan is presented to the entire community each year and widely distributed.

All decisions made by the CDEP committee must be reached using consensus (everyone on the committee must at least be able to “live with the decision”). This same approach is required in the SDM model above.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT**

Mr. Dennis Kane  
Assistant Superintendent  
Cheektowaga Central School District  
3600 Union Road  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
(716) 686-3610